

**David Stuart and Daniel Carroll, Commissioners to Thomas Jefferson, March 21, 1793, with Estimate, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.**

**Commissioners to Jefferson COMMISRS. TO MR. JEFFERSON, SECRETARY OF STATE**

*Georgetown 30th March 1792*

*Sir /*

Having felt much anxiety at our last meeting, to see business of some sort, commenced here, we determined on the immediate erection of a Bridge over Rock-Creek, and advertised for models to be exhibited to us by the 26th. Mr. Herbaugh, from Baltimore, an artist with whose ingenuity, you must be acquainted from his patents, exhibited to us the enclosed one, which has our approbation, as well as that of all here—

We had some doubts at first whether one Arch might be sufficient for the discharge, of the water in times of great floods, but have been fully satisfied on that head by those, who are best acquainted with it—A conditional agreement was immediately made with him, of which you have enclosed a Copy, together with his estimate of the expences—The proprietors of the ground from the Creek to George-Town, made a cession

last fall of half their interest, in it, for the purposes of a bridge and Causeway which was deposited with Majr. L'Enfant, who has it still—This made it necessary for us to apply to them, for a renewall of it, which we have obtained, and send you a Copy of—You will observe we are bound to complete both the bridge and causeway, before we can

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be entitled to the benefits of the Cession—As the River at present occupies almost, the whole of the Street, leading from G. Town over the Bridge, this would be perfectly useless without the Causeway: As the latter however is not included within the limits of the City, we do not think ourselves authorised to destine any part of the funds entrusted to us, to any purpose not so encluded, tho' immediately conected with it, and have thought it proper to submit the matter to the Presidents consideration—Allowing the property ceded to the Public, to sell only at one half

the price which such property commands at present in Baltimore and Alexandria, the Public will be more than reimbursed the expences of the Bridge, and Causeway provided no sale is made till these are completed—So that the Money advanced for effecting these objects, may be considered only as a loan, and for a very short time—Upon the whole, then, we doubt not but the President will approve of our making an absolute contract for them—To enable you to judge better of the value of the property, we enclose you a Survey we caused to be made of the ground, with a sketch of the lots to be devided between the Public and the individuals—Mr. Harbugh gives us reason to think he will undertake the Causeway likewise—He returns to Baltimore, tomorrow, to prepare for the undertaking he has entered into conditionally, if it receives the Presidents assent, of which we promised him, to request you to drop him immediate notice, at Baltimore that there may be no delay—Such indeed is the important point

of view in which we consider this matter, that sooner than have incurred, this we should notwithstanding, the doubt respecting our authority, have agreed absolutely with him—It was our intention founded on the expectation of meeting Mr. Ellicott here to have employed hands on the Post-road—A Skillfull hand is engaged to superintend the work at the Quarries, which will commence next week—We are in dayly expectation of a person from Baltimore, who has been highly recommended to us, to superintend the making of Bricks—Many offers of lime from the Eastward have been made us, but so exorbitent, that they have been declined; and we think ourselves fortunate in having done so, as we now

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have infinitely better, made us, from the upper parts of the Potomac—Indeed our pursuits from this Quarter are very flattering both with respect to Plank and

lime—If lime can at present be supplied on cheaper terms from thence, then the Eastward, what may not be expected Summer twelve month, when we have the strongest assurance of the Navigation being completed, and when we shall have the greatest demand for it—With respect to its quality our information from those who have had experience of each is, that the Potomack line is one fifth superior—Advertisements of the Plans have been sent to Boston, Baltimore Chariestown & Richmond—As soon as we are informed of the success of the event you mention, our Views will of course be extended to every possible object—From our short acquaintance with Mr. Herbaugh, we are impressed with the most favourable, opinion of him, and besides flattering ourselves that he will be found generally usefull, think he will be the most proper person we can engage, when it shall be necessary to undertake the Canal and the contraction of Goose-Creek—

We have received a letter from Majr. L'Enfant refusing our offer to him and requesting we would recall our draft in his favour—This place is becoming an object of much consequence, as to the atracting the notice of artists and laborers from all Quarters—This being the Case we will defer our answer to your offer respecting Germans, till Mr. Johnsons arrival whom we expect in the Course of a few days—We have conversed with Mr. Carroll on the subject of his house, who readily accedes to the proposition, of having it rebuilt to the same State as when it was destroyed—We shall therefore employ persons immediately, upon it—We are &c

**(Signed)**

Dd Stuart

Danl Carroll

TO MR. JEFFERSON

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[P. 71, COMMISSIONERS' LETTERBOOK Vol. I, 1791–1793, in the National Archives; pp. 234–6, U. S. v. MORRIS.]